



## EARTH CHARTER INTERNATIONAL

### Organizational Profile

Since the year 2000, ECI has:

- Engaged, empowered and educated young leaders from around the world to contribute to the transition towards sustainability.
- Inspired and trained educators from all levels and regions of the world to incorporate the values and principles of sustainability in their sphere of work.

#### EARTH CHARTER INTERNATIONAL (ECI)

**Earth Charter International (ECI)** is the organization that coordinates the global Earth Charter movement providing information, facilitating networking, and generating educational opportunities and materials to turn conscience into action. The ECI Secretariat works towards the implementation of the mission, vision, strategies, and policies adopted by the ECI Board and Council and coordinates activities with approximately 100 affiliated organizations and 120 young leaders in over 90 countries in all main regions of the world. It is based at the United Nations University for Peace in Costa Rica, and it is incorporated in the United States as a charitable non-profit organization (with a 501c3) as Earth Charter Associates Ltd.

#### MISSION

To contribute to the needed transition towards sustainable ways of living on the planet.

#### VISION

We envision people and organizations all over the world embracing and internalizing the Earth Charter vision, values, and principles, and bringing that vision into collaborative efforts to build just, sustainable, and peaceful communities worldwide.

#### GOALS

- Raise awareness of the sustainability principles that are articulated in the Earth Charter and promote understanding of its inclusive ethical vision.
- Promote the adoption and use of the Earth Charter as an ethical reference and a guide to action.
- Encourage and support the educational use of the Earth Charter and its application as an assessment tool.
- Promote the use of the Earth Charter as a soft law document.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Engage and empower young leaders and educators through training programmes to expand consciousness with regards to this integrated worldview of a planetary ethics and put the Earth Charter in action.
- Create and widely disseminate high-quality communications and educational materials.
- Facilitate and strengthen a global network of Earth Charter supporters and activists, as well as affiliated and partner organizations.
- Ensure that the Earth Charter serve as an instrument and an ethical reference to tackle urgent challenges (e.g., climate change and biodiversity loss) in efforts such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), conflict resolution, and education for sustainable development.

## AREAS OF WORK

### Education

In 2005, ECI established the Earth Charter Education Center on the campus of the University for Peace to offer a [variety of education programmes](#) that place special emphasis on the importance of incorporating values and principles for sustainability in learning and decision-making processes. The Center provides opportunities to expand participants' understanding of sustainability and to turn conscience into action.



**unesco**

Chair

Since 2012, the Center coordinates the [UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter](#), which was established in partnership with the University for Peace to generate educational programmes and research activities at the intersection of sustainability, ethics, and education. These programmes are offered in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

This UNESCO Chair is a partner of:

- UNITWIN Network on Education for Sustainable Development and Social Transformation (UNiESD&ST), coordinated by UNESCO Chair in Higher Education for Sustainable Development (2005), University of Lüneburg (Germany).
- International Partner Network of the UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Lifestyles, Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences.

The Center forges new paths in education for sustainable development, global citizenship education, and emerging leadership. It is a unique place that helps professionals, educators and young leaders build their capacity to integrate the knowledge, values, and skills needed for a sustainable way of life.

More than 20 [faculty and research fellows](#) from all regions of the world collaborate with the EC Center for ESD.

The Center contributes to the implementation of UNESCO Resolutions adopted in 2003 (32C/17) and 2019 (40C/20) which, recognize the Earth Charter as an important ethical framework for sustainable development, and encourages Member States to use the Earth Charter in Education for Sustainable Development processes, particularly in the implementation of the UNESCO Education for Sustainable Development for 2030 framework.

## Dialogue

ECI consistently engages in and organizes dialogues to expand understanding and awareness of current challenges and how to address them. In this regard, ECI:

- Facilitates dialogues, through online webinars and face-to-face fora, and stimulates the exchange of views on initiatives and principles of sustainability.
- Supports key international discussions, efforts, and initiatives in this field.
- Engages the Earth Charter network in global governance initiatives.

## Networking

ECI facilitates communications of/with the large [Earth Charter movement](#). In doing so, it:

- Shares information among organizations and individuals that are making use of the Earth Charter around the world.
- Helps to connect people and organizations to foster collaboration, partnerships, and goodwill towards realizing the Earth Charter values and principles.
- Develops resource materials and tools to share knowledge and advance the ECI mission.

## HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Earth Charter project began as a United Nations initiative. Following a recommendation made by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), in their report, *Our Common Future* (1987), the idea of drafting the Earth Charter was part of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit agenda (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development). However, given that no political agreement was achieved in that framework, in 1994, Maurice Strong, Secretary-General of the U.N. Earth Summit, joined with Mikhail Gorbachev in his capacity as president of Green Cross International to launch a new Earth Charter Initiative. They formed and co-chaired an independent international Commission, a diverse group of twenty-three eminent persons from all the major regions of the world, to guide and oversee the consultation and drafting process of the Earth Charter. The drafting process, which lasted between 1997 and 2000, was chaired by Steven C. Rockefeller, a professor of religion and ethics from the United States. The Dutch government provided the initial financial support. The Earth Charter document was launched on 29 June 2000 at The Peace Palace in The Hague in the presence of Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands.

Since its launch, the Earth Charter became a global movement, a network involving organizations and individuals from all regions of the world, who are using and implementing the Earth Charter in different ways. This steadily growing movement is coordinated by the Earth Charter International, that is incorporated in the United States as a non-for profit charitable and functions from the University for Peace campus in Costa Rica.

## WHAT IS THE EARTH CHARTER?

The [Earth Charter](#) is the product of a decade-long, worldwide, cross-cultural dialogue on common goals and shared values. It is a declaration of fundamental ethical principles for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society in the 21st century. It seeks to inspire in all people a new sense of global interdependence and shared responsibility for the well-being of the whole human family, the greater community of life, and future generations.

The Earth Charter is centrally concerned with the transition to sustainable ways of living and sustainable human development. It recognizes that the goals of ecological protection, the eradication of poverty, equitable economic development, respect for human rights, democracy, and peace are interdependent and indivisible. It can be seen as an ethical compass as it provides an inclusive, integrated ethical framework to guide the much-needed transition to a sustainable future.

Over 6,000 organizations and 50,000 individuals worldwide have endorsed or committed to the Earth Charter. For example, in 2003, the UNESCO General Conference adopted a resolution “recognizing the Earth Charter as an important ethical framework for sustainable development.” This resolution was reaffirmed in 2019. In 2004, the IUCN World Congress (the International Union of Conservation of Nature) adopted a resolution endorsing the Earth Charter and committed to use it as a guide for the organization’s policies and programmes.

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

### 1. ECI Board

The ECI/ECA Board oversees the work of the Earth Charter International Secretariat and its Education Center. It takes Board level decisions, setting major goals, policies, and strategies for ECI. It guides and supports the Secretariat especially in administrative and financial matters. The Board elects its own members in consultation with the Council.

### 2. ECI Council

The ECI Council advise and guide the broad policy and overall direction of the ECI. Its members function as advisors and ambassadors for the movement and support the implementation of ECI policies and strategies as possible. The ECI Council appoint the ECI Board.

[Learn more about the ECI Board and Council members here.](#)

### 3. ECI Secretariat

The ECI Secretariat is the coordinating body that facilitates and guides the Earth Charter global movement. Its core function is to raise awareness, promote the use and implementation of the Earth Charter and to provide guidance and support to the Movement. It also catalyses information from volunteer partners, affiliates and young leaders that are actively using the Earth Charter in their sphere of work. The Secretariat organizes online dialogues for sharing experiences and manages a permanent online space for dialogue and sharing. It ensures proper execution of the policies established by the Board and the Council. The ECI Secretariat and its Education Center are based at the United Nations-established University for Peace in Costa Rica. It has a bank account in Costa Rica through the University for Peace and one in the USA through the Earth Charter Associates (ECA).

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### **Earth Charter Associates, Ltd.**

The Earth Charter Associates Ltd. (ECA) is registered in the USA as a non-profit organization with a 501c3. The ECA and ECI Board are the same. ECA has Special Consultative Status at the UN ECOSOC, and it is accredited as an observer to the Governing Body of the UN Environment Programme.

### **University for Peace**

The University for Peace (UPEACE) is an institution of higher education dedicated to the study of peace. It was created by UN General Assembly Resolution 35/55, and it has been training leaders for peace for the past four decades. It is established in Costa Rica as an International Organization through an agreement with the Government of Costa Rica and by law. It is a unique global academic institution with over 2,000 Alumni hailing from more than 120 nations. Through its Master's and Doctoral degree programmes, UPEACE trains future leaders to explore and formulate strategies and practices in various contexts to address the causes of multiple problems affecting human and global wellbeing, and thus contribute to the processes of peacekeeping and peacebuilding. <https://www.upeace.org>

### **Bank Account /Wire Transfer Information**

Costa Rica Bank Account

<b>Beneficiary Name:</b>	University for Peace/Earth Charter
<b>Beneficiary Account #:</b>	100-02-099-600115-2
<b>Receiving Bank Name:</b>	Banco Nacional de Costa Rica
<b>Bank Address:</b>	Avenida Central, Calle 4 y 6 San José, Costa Rica
<b>Swift Code:</b>	BNCR CRSJ
<b>IBAN:</b>	CR37015109910026001154
<b>Account holder address:</b>	7km west of Ciudad Colon, San Jose, Costa Rica

Donations to ECI can also be made by using a debit card, credit card, or your PayPal account through PayPal at [https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=K79JFTXKUyecN](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=K79JFTXKUyecN)

## ECI Board and Council Members

### Board Members

- Michael J. Bracken (United States) – Chair
- Jane Kilonzo (Kenya)
- Song Li (China/United States)
- Paul Lubbers (Netherlands/Spain)
- Akpezi Ogbuigwe (Nigeria)
- Mirian Vilela (Brazil/Costa Rica)

### Council Members

- Michael J. Bracken (United States)
- Fritjof Capra (Austria/United States)
- Mateo A. Castillo Ceja (Mexico)
- Rick Clugston (United States)
- Sam Crowell (United States)
- Carol Anne Hilton (Canada)
- Heba Abdul Karim Jarrar (UAE)
- Ashok Khosla (India)
- Jane Kilonzo (Kenya)
- Song Li (China/United States)
- Paul Lubbers (The Netherlands)
- Brendan Mackey (Australia)
- Akpezi Ogbuigwe (Nigeria)
- Alide Roerink (The Netherlands)
- Kartikeya Sarabhai (India) - Chair
- Mirian Vilela (Brazil)
- Atsufumi Yokoi (Japan)
- Ricardo Young (Brazil)

## Selected Partner/Affiliated Organizations

- All Together foundation, Romania
- Associação Civil Alternativa Terra Azul, Brazil
- Aspea - Associação Portuguesa de Educação Ambiental, Portugal
- The Avalon Project – Initiative for a Culture of Peace, Spain
- Bahrain Women Association for Human Development, Bahrain
- BASD - Balkan Agency for Sustainable Development, Bulgaria
- Center for Environment Education – CEE, India
- Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education, FGCU, USA
- Center for Sustainable Development and Ecosystem Health, Institute of Developmental Biology, Russia
- Development Alternatives, India
- Earth Charter Hellas /University of Crete, Greece
- Education Sustainable Development Association, Belarus
- Forum on Religion and Ecology, USA
- Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)
- Fundación Valores, Spain
- Global Ecological Integrity Group (GEIG)
- Green Cross Sweden
- Integral Climate Change Solutions, South Africa
- Institute of Sustainable Development at the Russian Federation Civic Chamber, Russia
- Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development - JOHUD, Jordan
- Martin Luther University College, Canada
- Medcom Benefit Solutions, USA
- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (SEMARNAT)
- Montfort Social Institute (MSI), India
- New Zealand Centre for Environmental Law/Auckland University, New Zealand
- One World Ecumenical Initiative / Erd Charta, Germany
- Okayama University, Japan
- SBI – Earth Charter Nederland
- Soka Gakkai International (SGI), Japan
- UMAPAZ – Universidade Aberta do Meio Ambiente e Cultura de Paz, Brazil
- University for Peace (UPEACE), Costa Rica
- University for the International Cooperation (UCI), Costa Rica
- Walas Concepts, Netherlands



University  
for Peace



UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter

**Mirian Vilela**

**Executive Director**

**Earth Charter International Secretariat and**

**Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development at the University for Peace**

**UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter**

P.O. Box 138 - 6100

San Jose, Costa Rica

Tel. (506) 2205 9000

Fax. (506) 2249 1929

[www.earthcharter.org](http://www.earthcharter.org)

e-mail: [mvilela@earthcharter.org](mailto:mvilela@earthcharter.org)